

STORY 40.

THE TRIUMPHAL MARCH OF THE GREATEST
CONQUEROR OF THE WORLD.

THE siege of Jerusalem by the armies of Islam continued for four months. At last the people of the city said that they could hold out no longer, and they offered to make peace and to give up the city to the besiegers.

Jerusalem being a holy city, the Patriarch of the Greek Church requested the Muslim commander that in view of the sanctity of the place the Caliph himself should come and receive the keys. It seems that the fame of the good Caliph had travelled in advance of his armies. The Muslim general conveyed this request to (Hazrat) Omar who after consulting his friends decided to go.

Now look at the triumphal march of this great conqueror who humbled the pride of the Kaiser and Kistra to the dust. He took with him only one slave. There was only one camel between the Master and his slave. On one side of the camel hung a bag containing grain and on the other one containing dates. There was also a vessel for holding water and perhaps a dish.

With this equipment (Hazrat) Omar started on his memorable journey. But he did not ride the camel all through the route. He rode for some distance, the slave leading the camel and then the slave rode the same distance, (Hazrat) Omar

holding the nose-string of the animal. At last they reached their destination.

When the people of Jerusalem heard that the Caliph had arrived they threw open the gates of the city. (Hazrat) Omar assured them that they would not be molested in any way and would have perfect religious freedom.